



Working Group 3: EU control and sanitary issues, consumer rules

Sustainable Food System Framework

- Presentation of the public consultation



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23/05/2022

European Green Deal and Farm to Fork Strategy Sustainable Food System (SFS)

- The **European Green Deal** adopted the **Farm to Fork Strategy** which aims to address comprehensively the challenges of sustainable food systems
- Sustainability is fundamental to ensure long-term food security.
- The Farm to Fork Strategy announced an initiative for a horizontal framework law (FSFS),

Sustainable Food System (SFS) –new initiative

- Aims to make the EU food system sustainable and to integrate sustainability into all food-related policies.
- It will lay down general principles and objectives, together with the requirements and responsibilities of all actors in the EU food system,
 - sustainability labelling of food products
 - minimum criteria for sustainable public procurement of food
 - governance and monitoring.
- Planned Commission adoption in the fourth quarter 2023

Sustainable Food System (SFS) – Process

In preparation

Roadmap

Feedback period

28 September 2021 - 26

October 2021

FEEDBACK: CLOSED

Public consultation

Consultation period

28 April 2022 - 21 July 2022

FEEDBACK: OPEN

UPCOMING

Commission adoption

Planned for

Fourth quarter 2023

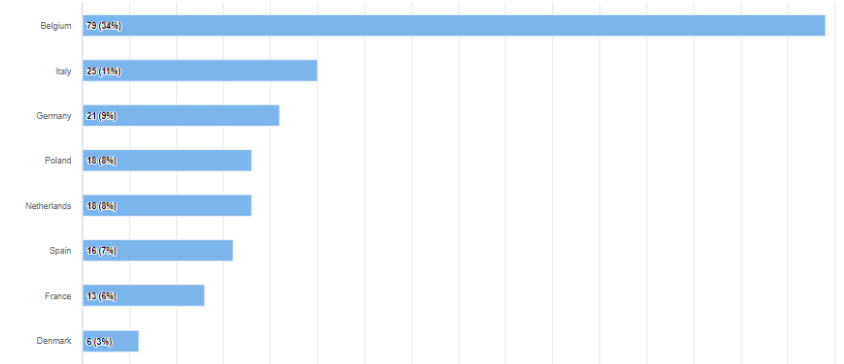
FEEDBACK: UPCOMING

- **The Commission would like to hear your views.**
- **Consultation period: 28 April 2022 - 21 July 2022** (midnight Brussels time)
- Your input will be taken into account and summarised in a synopsis report.

By category of respondent



By country



Sustainable Food System (SFS) – Public Consultation

- **Rules for feedback and suggestions:**
 - This is a space for citizens and stakeholders to express their views and contribute to the EU decision-making process
 - The questionnaire is accessible in all official EU languages. Contributions in English are welcome.
 - It is expected to require no more than 25 minutes. You can pause at any time and continue later.

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- **Rules for feedback and suggestions:**
 - The following kinds of content is unsuitable:
 - off-topic comments, unrelated to the proposed legislation
 - duplicate content, where the same content has been posted more than once
 - You can upload a concise document, such as a position paper
 - [Sustainable EU food system –new initiative \(europa.eu\)](https://europa.eu)

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- **Purpose of the OPC:**

- To gather your opinion on the need for a common definition and general principles on sustainability of the EU food systems and its potential.
- Further explore the potential policy options to achieve this transition and on the likely (environmental, economic and social) impacts of the initiative.
- All the information collected will be presented in an aggregate manner so as to render the identification of respondents impossible, in respect of all applicable data protection regulations.

Sustainable Food System (SFS) Public Consultation

- At the same time, it should be noted that this questionnaire is **not exhaustive in its scope**.
- The policy design in the initiative for a Framework for a Sustainable EU Food System will draw on **other processes** which are ongoing in relation to specific aspects, e.g., Imports of agricultural and food products – applying EU health and environmental standards (report), or other initiatives mentioned on the F2F website.

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- **Target audience:**

- All relevant stakeholders: citizens, economic operators of all sizes, including SMEs, and organisations representing them, consumer organisations, social partners, NGOs, public authorities at all governance levels, public purchasers, academia and research institutions, as well as any other interested stakeholder
- Aimed to attract a broad range of responses, from all stakeholder categories previously mentioned.

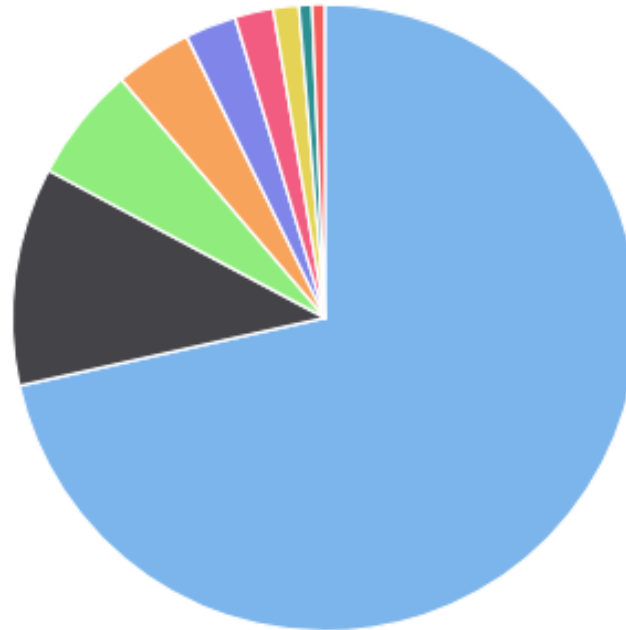
Sustainable Food System (SFS) – Public Consultation

- **Concepts:**

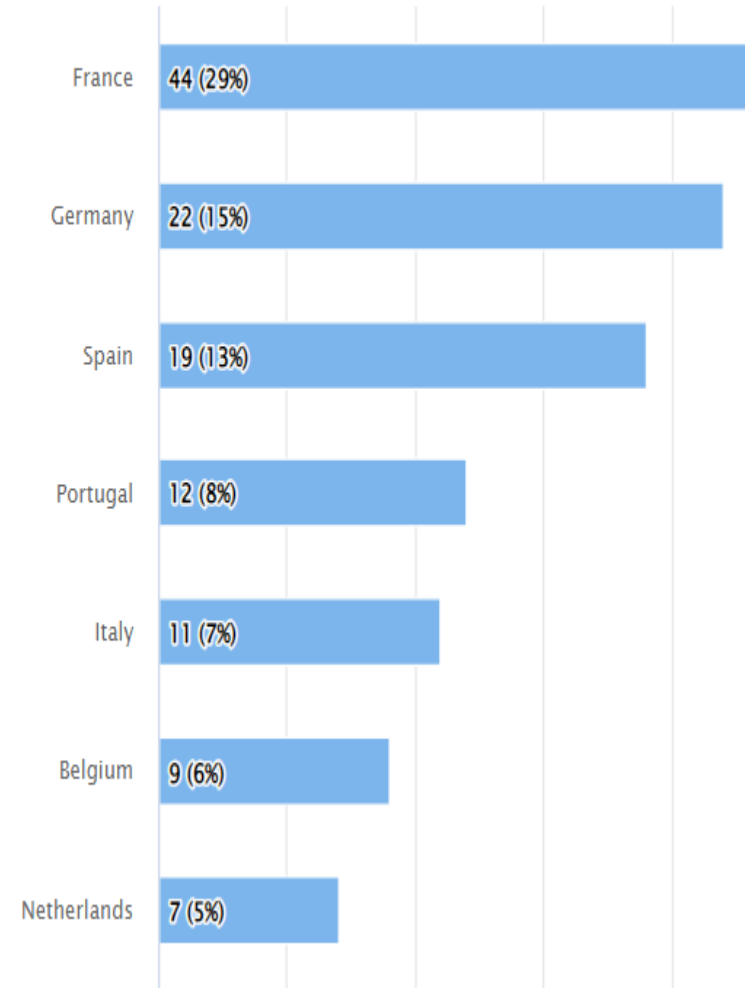
- Food system:
- Food system actors
- The food environment
- Sustainable food system

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By category of respondent



By country



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- **Main questions to be addressed:**
 - Views among stakeholders on the sustainability of the EU food systems
 - Key concerns that stakeholders raise in regard to achieving the objectives
 - Proposals, suggestions or additional elements that stakeholders may identify that can be put forward

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1) To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

(1 – I strongly agree; 2 – I agree to some extent; 3 – neither agree nor disagree; 4 – I disagree to some extent; 5 – I strongly disagree; 6 – I do not know; 7 - I do not take position).

a) The existing EU food system is not sustainable in the long term

b) There is a strong interplay and interdependence between the environmental, social (including health and nutrition) and economic dimensions of sustainability

c) Sustainability is fundamental for food security and for the resilience of the food system in the long term

d) Consumers do not have sufficient information on the sustainability of foods

f) The current food system is not ready to meet future challenges, e.g., climate change, preserving natural resources and reversing biodiversity loss

g) In order to be successful, food systems sustainability must be ensured both in the EU and at global level

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2) To foster the transition to sustainable food systems, how important (or impactful) are the actions of the actors listed below: (1 – very important/impactful; 2 – moderately important/impactful; 3 – neutral; 4 - only with a limited importance impact; 5 – not important/impactful at all; 6 - I do not know; 7 - I do not take position)

Consumers	Business operators active in the area of food contact materials
Primary producers of animal products (e.g. livestock farmers)	Business operators active in the area of veterinary medicinal products
Fishers	Business operators active in biotechnology relating to the food system
Aquaculture producers	EU institutions
Primary producers of crops for food and feed (e.g., farmers)	National governments
Food/feed manufacturers	Regional governments
Traders (of food commodities or food/feed) importing from 3 rd countries	Cities, local authorities
Traders (of food commodities or food/feed) exporting to 3 rd countries	Educational system
Retailers of food/feed	Non-governmental organisations
Hospitality and food services, including restaurants and caterers	Investors, banks or financial institutions
Business operators active in the area of plant protection products	Knowledge providers, advisors, research and innovation
Business operators active in the area of fertilizers	Another category: [please specify]
Business operators active in the area of seeds and plant propagating material	

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3) How easy is it, in your assessment, for the following actors of the food system to make sustainable choices:

(1 - very difficult; 2 – difficult; 3 – relatively easy; 4 – very easy; 5 – I do not know; 6 - I do not take position)

4) To what extent do the following factors prevent food system actors from making sustainable choices in the production/processing/distribution/consumption of food products:

(1 - Very significant impact; 2- Some impact; 3- No impact; 4- I do not know; 5 - I do not take position)

Long-term/real costs and impacts of food are not reflected in the price and cost of food

Food system actors', including consumers', choices are based mainly on short-term costs

Increasing competition on global markets

No systematic integration of sustainability in the operations of food system actors

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4) To what extent do the following factors prevent food system actors from making sustainable choices in the production/processing/distribution/consumption of food products:
(1 - Very significant impact; 2- Some impact; 3- No impact; 4- I do not know; 5 - I do not take position

Lack of common understanding of sustainability among food system actors in the EU single market

Lack of common understanding among food system actors at global level in relation to sustainability

Lack of transparency on/information about the sustainability of a product or its production/distribution process in the EU market

Lack of transparency/information about the sustainability of a product or its production process at global level

Marketing and advertising practices

Unbalance of market power in the food system, weakening the ability of certain actors (e.g., farmers) to invest in more sustainable practices.

Behavioural biases and habits of food system actors, including consumers

Food environments which predispose to unsustainable choices by consumers

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4) To what extent do the following factors prevent food system actors from making sustainable choices in the production/processing/distribution/consumption of food products:

The regulatory framework (lack of systematic sustainability objectives, definitions etc.)

Lack of targeted incentives to produce sustainable food (e.g. financial, R&I)

Insufficient availability of/accessibility to sustainable processes/products/services

Existence of multiple private standards

Lack of international standards on sustainability

Lack of proper education, training, advisory services to assist food systems actors in the transition to sustainable food systems.

Lack of investment in / knowledge/ access to innovation support measures

Insufficient research on food systems interdependencies, co-benefits and trade-offs of possible actions

Other (please specify):

Optional:

If you wish, please briefly justify your answer: [open text field - max 1000 characters]

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**5) In your direct experience (within your own stakeholder category, and for those relevant to you), what are the most important obstacles in the transition to more sustainable practices?
[open text field – 4000 characters]**

**6) To what extent do you consider that the following levels of government promote sustainable food systems in their policies?
(Not at all, Insufficiently, Sufficiently, too much, do not know / EU, National, Regional, Local)**

**7) Which level of government can best accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system?
(No role, limited role, Important role / Global, EU, National, Regional, Local)**

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8) To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

(1 - Strongly agree; 2 - Tend to agree; 3 – neutral; 4 - Tend to disagree; 5 - Strongly disagree; 6 - Do not know; 7 - I do not take position)

To encourage and accelerate the transition to a sustainable EU food system, it is necessary to establish EU-wide general objectives, principles and definitions relevant for the sustainability of the food system

At EU and national level competent authorities should ensure that sustainability is mainstreamed in all food related policies

EU trade policy, in particular, should be consistent with the objectives of the transition to a sustainable EU food system

Business operators active in the food system should have mechanisms in place to ensure that operations/processes and/or products within the businesses under their control satisfy any sustainability-related requirements of EU law

Sustainability objectives for the EU food system should be translated into specific requirements by sector where not available

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8) To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

(1 - Strongly agree; 2 - Tend to agree; 3 – neutral; 4 - Tend to disagree; 5 - Strongly disagree; 6 - Do not know; 7 - I do not take position)

A sustainability analysis in the form of a global analysis of the sustainability profile of a product or operations is needed to accelerate the transition to sustainable food systems forward

Business operators of different sizes should have different levels of responsibility

Best practices contributing to achieving a sustainable EU food system should be shared across the EU and nationally

Optional:

If you wish, please briefly justify your answer: [open text field - max 1000 characters]

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9) How important would you consider that the activity of a food system actor (to be considered as covering their internal operations/processes and/or products, within their businesses and under their control)- should not significantly harm the following aspects:

1 – Very important; 2 – Important; 3 – not very important; 4 – not at all important; 5 - Do not know; 6 – I do not take position)

Climate change mitigation (e.g., reduction of greenhouse gas emission)	Prevention of child labour and protection of young people at work
Climate change adaptation (e.g., improvement of irrigation efficiency)	Food safety and risks to human health
The sustainable use and protection of land	Availability of food supplies
The sustainable use and protection of water and marine resources	Affordability of sustainable food
The transition to a circular economy (“reduce, reuse, recycle”)	Accessibility of sustainable food
Pollution prevention and control of air, water and soil	Cultural/culinary habits
Protection and restoration of biodiversity and ecosystems	Quality nutrition, to promote human health
Environmental protection (Minimise or improve all environmental aspects linked to the food system in a holistic way)	Animal welfare
Prevention of slavery and forced labour	Animal and plant health
Fair and just working conditions	Impact on developing countries
Fair and just remuneration of primary producers (farmers and fishers)	Other [please specify]

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10) At what level does the transition to sustainable food systems need to take place? (Tick all that apply)

1 – Very important; 2 – Important; 3 – not very important; 4 – not at all important; 5 - Do not know; 6 – I do not take position / Global, EU, National, Regional, Local)

11) How do you see your role in the transition to sustainable food system?

[optional question] – 1000 characters max

12) Are you involved in any platform/dialogue group/initiative that aims to contribute to sustainable food systems?

Yes / No

13) If yes: at what level is it active

International / EU / National / Regional / Local

[Optional] Please elaborate on its activity and your role in it – 1000 characters max

14) What role do you see for platforms/dialogue groups/initiatives in the transition to and governance of a sustainable food system [2500 characters]

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15) On which of the below aspects of sustainability, should consumers receive information to empower them to make sustainable food choices (please select and rank in order of importance, (1) being the most important)

Nutrition

Climate

Environment

Animal welfare

Fair and just remuneration of producers

Fair and just working conditions

Other aspects (please specify)

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16) To what extent do you agree with the following statements:

(1 - Strongly agree; 2 - Tend to agree; 3 – Neutral; 4 - Tend to disagree; 5 - Strongly disagree; 6 - Do not know; 7 - I do not take position)

Consumers pay more and more attention to the sustainability of the food they buy.

Providing information to consumers about the sustainability of the food they buy is a useful tool and it will accelerate the transition to a sustainable food system.

Reliable and evidence-based sustainability labelling of food would also help incentivising operators to supply more sustainable products.

Sustainability information currently provided to consumers on food products is reliable.

Sustainability information currently provided to consumers on food products is clear and easy to understand

Sustainability information currently provided on food products allows consumers to choose sustainable products.

The multiplicity of sustainability labels on food products are confusing for consumers

Food businesses should be subject to the same rules on sustainability information to consumers across the entire EU.

A dedicated sustainability label which allows comparing the sustainability of products would help consumers to make sustainable food choices.

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17) If an EU sustainability label was established:

(Please select only one answer):

- a. Such a label should be a voluntary label identifying only sustainable food products
- b. Such a label should be a voluntary label- identifying sustainable and non-sustainable food products
- c. Such a label should be a mandatory label informing on the sustainability of all EU food products:
- d. Such a label should be a mandatory label- informing on the sustainability of all EU and imported food products
- e. An EU sustainability label is not necessary / desirable
- f. Don't know
- g. Other (please specify)

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18) To what extent should schools and public institutions consider sustainability when purchasing food?
[None, limited, moderate, great, do not know, no opinion]

19) If “moderate” or “great” selected for previous question, how important do you think such an action would be for the transition to sustainable food system..?
(1 – very important/impactful; 2 – moderately important/impactful; 3 – neutral; 4 - only with a limited importance impact; 5 – not important/impactful at all; 6 - I do not know; 7 - I do not take position)

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20) In relation to public procurement only, to what extent do you agree with the following statements?
(1 - Strongly agree; 2 - Tend to agree; 3 – Neutral; 4 - Tend to disagree; 5 - Strongly disagree; 6 - Do not know; 7 - I do not take position)

The meals should be enjoyable and tasty

The meals should be accessible to all, at an affordable price

Plant based alternatives should be offered more frequently

Food produced locally should be offered more frequently

Nutritionally well-balanced meals (e.g., alternatives lower in sugars and fats) should be offered more frequently

More fruits and vegetables should be offered

Food produced from traditional and locally adapted varieties, in particular for fruit and vegetables, should be offered more frequently

Production of food of animal origin should respect high animal welfare standards

Organic meals/ingredients should be offered more frequently

The social impact of the meals offered (e.g. human rights, workers' rights) should be taken into account in procurement

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21) To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

(1 - Strongly agree; 2 - Tend to agree; 3 – Neutral; 4 - Tend to disagree; 5 - Strongly disagree; 6 - Do not know; 7 - I do not take position)

Food composition targets for sugars, salt, and saturated fat for all food categories should be set

Targets for added sugars, salt and saturated fat for processed and ultra-processed foods and meals should be set

When designing policies that impact food prices (such as subsidy schemes and taxation), competent authorities should consider how these policies can encourage a higher consumption of whole grain cereals, vegetables, fruits, legumes and nuts, and a lower consumption of red meat and foods high in sugars, salt, and saturated fat.

22) To what extent do you agree with the following statements?

(1 - Strongly agree; 2 - Tend to agree; 3 – Neutral; 4 - Tend to disagree; 5 - Strongly disagree; 6 - Do not know; 7 - I do not take position)

The marketing, advertising and sales promotion, including online, of foods high in saturated fat, salt or sugars to children should be restricted.

Marketing techniques should be restricted unless the products they relate to are of high nutritional standard (e.g., low in saturated fat, salt or sugars).

Sponsorship activities that result in advertising during big events (e.g., sports events) should be restricted for products high in saturated fat, salt or sugars.

The merchandising of foods (i.e., the way food products are presented in retail outlets) should promote healthier food choices.

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23) What incentives would be most effective in stimulating sustainable production/processing/distribution/consumption methods and techniques?

24) Do food system actors have sufficient knowledge and skills for the transition to sustainable food systems?

Yes / No / Do not know / I do not take position

[optional] if yes, please elaborate [500 characters]

25) Are there food system actors that are better prepared for the transition than others?

Yes / No

[optional] if yes, please elaborate [500 characters]

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- **Additional remarks:**

- OPC is part of a broader process supporting the stakeholder consultation activities for the SFS initiative.
- Key stakeholders are expected to participate in the different phases (OPC, targeted surveys and interviews, workshops).
- MAC Advice on FSFS is duly noted and very much appreciated.

Thank you very much



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